

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A  
3 COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AND  
4 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ASSIST  
5 IN THE STUDY.

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7 WHEREAS, farming and ranching are the lifeblood of New  
8 Mexico, with centuries upon centuries of Native American,  
9 Hispanic and Anglo families making their living and their  
10 lives from the land; and

11 WHEREAS, agriculture is vital to New Mexico's economy,  
12 environment and culture and it is important to conserve,  
13 protect, encourage, develop and improve agricultural land for  
14 the production of agricultural products and to reduce the  
15 loss to the state of its agricultural resources by limiting  
16 the conversion of farmland or ranchland to development; and

17 WHEREAS, in many parts of the state, agricultural  
18 resources are in danger from urban pressures, such as land  
19 being taken out of production for development and  
20 agricultural water rights being sold for urban uses; and

21 WHEREAS, thousands of agricultural acres each year are  
22 prematurely or unnecessarily converted to urban uses and  
23 farms and ranches are impinged upon by urban sprawl; and

24 WHEREAS, as urban centers expand, the resulting increase  
25 in land values discourages investments in farm and ranch

1 improvements;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
4 be requested to appoint an interim committee to study the  
5 need to protect agricultural resources in New Mexico through  
6 the creation of agricultural districts, the use of  
7 conservation easements, the limiting of eminent domain powers  
8 and other methods; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of  
10 agriculture be requested to assist the committee in its  
11 study; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its  
13 findings and recommendations to the first session of the  
14 forty-ninth legislature; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
17 council.

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